



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Two Die in Southeast Louisiana House Fires Over the Weekend

BATON ROUGE- State Fire Marshal deputies continue investigating two residential fires from over the weekend that claimed the lives of a Cutoff woman and a Franklinton man.

In the first case, around 12:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29, the Lafourche Parish Fire District responded to the 100 block of East 53rd Street in Cut Off for a report of a house fire.

As firefighters were putting the fire out, the homeowner returned from the store and reported that his bedridden wife was inside. The man attempted to enter the home to rescue his wife but had to be pulled back. Unfortunately, firefighters later located the body of a disabled woman in a hospital bed in the home's living room.

While official identification and cause of death are pending with the Coroner's Office, the victim is believed to be a 68-year-old resident of the home.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire began in the living room area of the home where the victim was found. At this time, the cause of this fire remains undetermined, however, the investigation continues into possible electrical-related and/or smoking-related factors.

In the second case, in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 30, Washington Parish Fire District 4 was called to the 31000 block of Junior Rowell Road in Franklinton for a report of a mobile home fire that spread to two nearby campers.

Firefighters arrived to find several residents safely outside reporting one person still inside of one of the structures. Unfortunately, firefighters later located the body of a man outside between two of the homes.

While official identification and cause of death are pending with the Coroner's Office, it is believed the victim is the 83-year-old homeowner of the initial mobile home that caught fire.

Following an assessment of the scene, deputies determined the fire began in the southwest corner of the mobile home. At this time, the cause of this fire remains undetermined, however, the investigation continues into possible

electrical-related and/or mechanical-related factors due to evidence in the area of origin including several appliances.

Lastly, deputies were unable to locate working smoke alarms in either home. The SFM wants to stress to all Louisiana residents that smoke alarms have proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency, no matter the type of home. If you need assistance obtaining smoke alarms for your home, Operation Save-A-Life can help. To learn more about Operation Save-A-Life, or to register for a free smoke alarm, visit our website at lasfm.org or contact your local fire department to request a free smoke alarm installation.

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